

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

**Contact:**

Mary Schwenzfeier, State Shellfish Observer Program Coordinator  
Heather Fitch, BSAI Area Management Biologist  
P.O. Box 920587  
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692  
Phone: (907) 581-1239  
Fax: (907) 581-1572  
Email: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov

Date Issued: August 1, 2012

## **PRESEASON VESSEL REGISTRATION FOR 2012/13 BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB, BERING SEA TANNER CRAB, AND BERING SEA SNOW CRAB FISHERIES**

Preseason vessel registrations for the 2012/13 Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries will begin on August 15, 2012. Total allowable catches (TAC) will be announced in subsequent news releases; preseason registration does not guarantee that a fishery will be open during the 2012/13 season.

Forms for preseason vessel registration and lists of vessels that have preseason registered by fishery are located at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/cfregion4/dynamic/shellfish/management/vesreg/index>. Completed preseason registration forms should be sent to the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office and must be received by the preseason registration deadline of 5:00 p.m. September 24, 2012. A 2012 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit card is not required to preseason register.

Vessels that are preseason registered for the Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, or Bering Sea snow crab fisheries will be listed in a random-ordered roster by fishery and announced in a subsequent news release. Vessels will be chosen from the top of the roster for observer coverage to achieve the target level of coverage needed in each fishery. Catcher vessel observer coverage for these fisheries is contracted and paid for by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

-continued-

Selected catcher vessels will be required to carry a crab observer during 100 percent of the time that each vessel is participating in the fishery. In addition to the catcher vessels selected to carry an observer, ADF&G will maintain an alternate list of vessels for potential observer coverage in each fishery. If the alternate list is exhausted during a fishery, all vessels that are actively fishing may be considered.

The contact information provided on the preseason registration form will be used for the purpose of arranging observer coverage for each catcher vessel selected by ADF&G to carry an observer. Observers will be provided by ADF&G or the state-contracted observer company, Saltwater Incorporated. The Saltwater Inc. phone contact for crab catcher vessel observer coverage is (907) 581-6611.

Each crab processing vessel is required to carry a crab observer during 100 percent of the vessel's crab processing operations. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab processing vessels must arrange and pay for their observer coverage.

All vessels must provide proof of compliance with United States Coast Guard (USCG) vessel safety requirements. USCG dockside examinations are available in Seattle, Kodiak, and Unalaska.

Observers will have their own rain gear, boots, gloves, survival suit, and personal floatation device (PFD) for working on deck, along with their own bedding and personal items. Some of the regulatory requirements for vessels that carry observers include:

- Provide adequate food and accommodations for the observer equal to those provided for the vessel's crew;
- Provide to the observer daily catch information for each string of fishing gear including areas fished, number of crab retained, pot locations, number of pots pulled, and other information specified by ADF&G;
- Provide a safe work area and necessary gear, including five totes for the observer to use at all times to hold the contents of crab pots for sampling;
- Assure observer access to single side band (SSB) radio, fax, email, or telephone.

For further information please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

-end-